

DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES ☐ ACTION **15-XX**
DIVISION OF FAMILY AND ECONOMIC SECURITY ☒ NOTICE
ADMINISTRATOR'S MEMO SERIES

ISSUE DATE: X/X/2015
DISPOSAL DATE: X/X/2015

*PROGRAM CATEGORIES:

<input type="checkbox"/> AS	<input type="checkbox"/> FM	<input type="checkbox"/> ML	<input type="checkbox"/> TR
<input type="checkbox"/> CC	<input type="checkbox"/> FL	<input type="checkbox"/> NA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> W-2
<input type="checkbox"/> CS	<input type="checkbox"/> IT	<input type="checkbox"/> RA	<input type="checkbox"/> WIA
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To: W-2 Contract Agency Directors

From: Kristiane Randal
 Division Administrator

RE: Chapter 49 Statutory Change: Wisconsin Works Community Steering Committee Requirements

PURPOSE:

This memo provides information on statutory changes to Wisconsin Works (W-2) Community Steering Committee (CSC) requirements included in 2015 Wisconsin Act 55.

BACKGROUND:

Amendments to the CSC requirements in state statute resolve the prior disconnect between the CSC provisions and the new W-2 service delivery structure implemented in 2013. W-2 agencies have been unable to comply with the provisions of the current statute regarding the formation of CSCs as written and certain activities were out of scope.

STATUTORY CHANGES:

Wis. Stat. § 49.143(2)(a) was amended to allow W-2 agencies discretion to create committees appropriate for the individual needs of each geographical area with respect to size, composition, and activities to support employment. The updated Wis. Stat. § 49.143(2)(a) is attached.

W-2 agencies now have the ability to establish more than one CSC. CSCs must be established within 60 days of signing the contract. Previously, the 60 day timeline was set from the date the contract was awarded.

The W-2 agency no longer recommends members to the chief executive officer of each county served to appoint to the committee. Moving forward, member appointments will be the responsibility of the W-2 agency. The total number of members on each committee may not exceed 20. The 12 member minimum has been removed from statute and the number of members no longer has to be in proportion to the county population.

Each county the agency serves must be represented on a committee by a member who is a representative of a county department responsible for economic development, of a city department responsible for economic development for a city that is in that county or of the business community in that county. Each committee must have at least one representative of business interests as a member.

Specific W-2 placements are no longer identified in statute as the target for CSC employment activities, as amendments to the language now identify all W-2 placements. Tasks related to parenting and childcare are no longer required CSC activities to promote the business and employment focus. CSCs are also no longer responsible for identifying assessment and motivational training programs. The amended statute provides that the committee may foster and guide the entrepreneurial efforts of participants and provide job-related guidance; however, neither of these activities remain a requirement.

The statutory changes will put CSCs in a position to increase productivity of W-2 agencies by creating and encouraging others to create employment and work experience opportunities. The link between the W-2 agency and private businesses translates to an investment in the success of the individual participants.

The effective date of 2015 Wisconsin Act 55 was July 14, 2015.

ACTION SUMMARY STATEMENT:

All W-2 Contractors must have CSCs established by Month XX, XXXX. This administrator's memo provides 60 days' notice for compliance with the CSC requirement.

CONTACT:

Attachments: Wis. Stat. § 49.143(2)(a)